



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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**Safer, Stronger,
Smarter**

www.rio.iowa.gov

HUD SECRETARY DONOVAN VISITS CEDAR RAPIDS, ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL RECOVERY FUNDS

One year after Iowa was hit by historic storms, tornadoes and flooding, US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shaun Donovan visited Cedar Rapids to pledge continued assistance for Iowa's disaster recovery.

Governor Chet Culver accompanied Secretary Donovan on his visit. During his stop, they toured flood-affected areas including the Time Check neighborhood, Downtown Cedar Rapids and Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Other officials present were US Secretary of Agriculture (and former Iowa Governor) Tom Vilsack, Congressman



HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan (center) takes a walking tour of downtown Cedar Rapids on June 10.

Dave Loebsack and Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lieutenant General Ron Dardis.

At a press conference following the tour, Secretary Donovan announced Iowa would receive \$516.7 million in the next allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

This most recent allocation brings Iowa's total disaster-related CDBG funding to nearly \$800 million.

In determining the most recent disaster allocations, HUD focused on two factors:

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REBUILD IOWA OFFICE SEEKS DISASTER-RECOVERY INPUT THROUGH "SPEAK UP IOWA II"

One year after Iowa's devastating storms, tornadoes and flooding, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is seeking additional public input on the state's disaster recovery through the "Speak Up Iowa II" survey.

Survey results will help the RIO improve disaster recovery programs and

procedures, suggesting enhancements and future legislative issues.

This survey builds on the feedback from last summer's statewide public input sessions which fueled the work of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission and its task forces and led to 12 legislative recommendations.

All 12 recommendations were addressed during the 2009 legislative session.

The "Speak Up Iowa II" survey has been available during many disaster commemoration events across the state. The survey is also available on the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

IOWA COMMUNITIES REMEMBER: ONE YEAR LATER



Parkersburg - RIO Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis at the Miracle Park Playground dedication, May 24.



New Hartford - Gov. Culver and the family of a tornado victim plant a memorial tree in Packwaukee Park, May 25.



Palo - Volunteers load a truck bed full of flowers to deliver to Palo residents, May 30.



Waterloo - Residents gather for a community commemoration picnic in Lafayette Park, May 30.



Mason City - Residents visit the RIO Resource Booth in East Park, June 7.



Waverly - Simon Estes sings "God Bless America" at Waverly's commemoration event in Kohlmann Park, June 13.

JUMPSTART HOUSING, SMALL BUSINESS UPDATES

The Jumpstart Iowa Assistance programs, first announced last September, have undergone significant changes in recent months to better serve the needs of disaster-affected Iowans.

On April 15, the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program wrapped up its operation and stopped accepting new applications. This move coincided with the acceptance of applications for the new Disaster Recovery Business Rental Assistance Program, a program which assists businesses occupying rental space in disaster-affected areas. For more information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/assistance.html.

On April 21, Governor Culver signed legislation to reduce the terms of the

Jumpstart Housing forgivable loans from 10 years to 5 years. This change in the program helps homeowners by allowing the loans to be forgiven twice as quickly as before, lessening the long-term burden for the homeowner.

On May 15, the Iowa Finance Authority board voted to extend Interim Mortgage Assistance for disaster-affected homeowners. This assistance, an activity under the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program, was designed to take away the burden of two mortgages and may be used for payment of principal, interest, property taxes and hazard insurance.

For more information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION EVENTS

Additional Iowa communities will be hosting events throughout the month to commemorate last summer's historic flooding. The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) has been working with each community to publicize their events.

The RIO, along with representatives of state and federal agencies, will attend the events to support Iowans and communities recovering from the devastating tornadoes and floods. Officials will be available to answer questions at the Rebuild Iowa Office Resource Booth about disaster recovery programs and Iowa's rebuilding progress.

Atalissa – June 20: Atalissa's commemoration event is part of Atalissa Day, a day of events to raise money for the local fire station. Flood commemoration events include a barbecue and roasted pork dinner from 4-6 p.m., with introductions and comments from local officials to begin at 6:15 p.m. A video presentation featuring photos and video clips of the 2008 flood will follow. Lt.

Gen. Ron Dardis, executive director of the Rebuild Iowa Office, will be present to offer remarks. Other community events include firefighter water fights, a dance, bingo and a kids' craft table.

Elkader – June 23: The event in Elkader is open to residents in Clayton County. The event will take place in Elkader's City Park from 4 to 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided to disaster victims who RSVP to the event. Guest speakers, including Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, will make comments to the crowd starting at 6 p.m.

Cedar Falls – June 24: The community will hold its Flood Observance from 5 to 8 p.m. in front of North Cedar Elementary School on June 24. Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis will be present to offer remarks about the recovery efforts. Additional highlights include a community pork burger dinner and ice cream dessert, a Black Hawk helicopter landing on the school playground and activities for children. Musical entertainment will be provided by "The Ramblers."

For the most recent news and events from the Rebuild Iowa Office, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

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DONOVAN (continued from page 1)

- **Combined unmet housing, infrastructure and business needs -**

This is each State's relative share of these estimated unmet needs based on available data provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA),

- **Recovery Challenge Risk Level -** HUD has estimated the relative level of recovery challenges confronting these States by using information from the 2005 hurricanes. The information indicates that the extent of concentrated neighborhood damage and the severity of damage to particular properties are very good predictors for long-term vacancy.

CDBG funding is administered by the state and will address a wide range of community development needs including home buyouts, public infrastructure projects, assistance to businesses, economic revitalization and flood mitigation.

Secretary Donovan also announced nearly \$312 million that will be available to States that spend their existing funding on programs working to reduce the impact of future disasters. This new Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund is designed to encourage States to design forward-

thinking recovery plans that will reduce the risks of loss of life and the extent of future damage.

"These States are enduring tremendous hardships as they try to piece together their local communities following last year's natural disasters," said Donovan. "Our job is to support them in any way possible and to encourage them to take positive steps toward reducing the risk of catastrophe in the future."

Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund projects may include:

- Buyout payments for homeowners living in high-risk areas
- Optional relocation payments to encourage residents to move to safer locations
- Home improvement grants to reduce damage risks (property elevation, reinforced garage doors and windows, etc.)
- Improving and enforcing building codes
- Developing forward-thinking land-use plans that reduce development in high-risk areas.

Iowa is one of 11 states eligible to apply for these additional recovery funds. These dollars will be available on a competitive basis to states which suffered from natural disasters in 2008.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926

To volunteer or make donations, contact:
Iowa Concern Hotline 800.447.1985

Disaster Unemployment Information 800.JOB.IOWA

Iowa Mortgage Help 877.622.4866 or
www.IowaMortgageHelp.com

Project Recovery Iowa crisis counseling
(call the Iowa Concerns Hotline) 866.849.0323

Iowa Other Needs Assistance 800.659.2955

Other Needs Assistance 866.434.4692